(d) if so, the power deficit areas identified by the PTC; and

(e) the likely/estimated return the PTC expect to get from this deal?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) PTC India Ltd. (formerly the Power Trading Corporation of India Ltd.) has reported that it has entered into agreements for short-term (upto 3 years) sale and purchase of power, mainly with the SEBs or their successor entities. One of the objectives of PTC is to catalyze development of power projects by acting as an intermediary by entering into Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) on the one hand and Multipartite Power Sale Agreements (PSAs) with the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) or other off-takers under long term agreements on the other. Accordingly, PTC is also in the process of signing Long-term (25 years) agreements for off take of power from identified generating stations in India and neighbouring countries but no long-term agreement has yet been signed.

(d) PTC India Ltd. has reported that it has already initiated three separate MOUs with Punjab State Electricity Board (PSEB) and one each with West Bengal State Electricity Board (WBSEB) and Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board (MPSEB) and is in touch with other State Power Utilities.

(e) PTC India Ltd. has reported that it charges a margin of about 5 paise per unit or 2% of the unit cost of electricity traded, on an average, for its trading transactions. However, the margin in case of long-term agreements with power plants may be at different levels.

Nathpa Jhakri Project

655. SHRI S. P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported to the Government that 60 per cent damage has been caused to the underwater turbines which are used in the recently started Nathpa Jhakri Project due to silted water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the technical problems?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) There is no such report that 60 per cent damage has been caused to the underwater

turbines used for Nathpa Jhakri Project. However, it has been reported that due to high content of silt in the water, erosion/damage to the underwater parts of turbines viz. guide vanes, cheek plates, labyrinth, runner etc. is higher than normal. It is difficult to quantify the extent of damage in percentage as it varies across components and units.

(c) Ministry of Power, on 5th November, 2004 has set up a Multi Disciplinary Task Force under the Chairmanship of Member (Hydro), Central Electricity Authority with members from Central Water Commission, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd., National Metallurgical Laboratory, Geological Survey of India and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. to look into the problem of corrosion/ erosion by the silt and to suggest remedial measures thereof.

Also, M/s. Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (the agency operating the project) in consultation with the suppliers of the generating machines, have taken up a number of initiatives such as modification of inlet and outlet passages of the turbines, special coating on the underwater parts to prevent erosion etc. A comprehensive programme to refurbish all the six units by 15.05.2005 i.e. well before on set of next monsoon in being implemented and accordingly Unit No. 2 and No. 1 have already been refurbished and put back in operation w.e.f. 7.11.2004 and 28.11.2004 respectively.

Asian Development bank loan for power projects

656. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects in the country for which the Asian Development Bank has sanctioned loan recently;

(b) the number of projects out of them proposed to be set up in Chhattisgarh;

(c) the rate of interest to be charged on the said loan by the Asian Development Bank; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose to repay the said loan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned loans for the following power projects in the country during last 5 years: